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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

*Smallpox at Elberton, Ga.*

SAVANNAH, GA., *December 12, 1901.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the situation at Elberton, Ga., to which place I was ordered on December 3, for the purpose of conferring with the local authorities as to the smallpox epidemic:

The town, a place of 5,000 inhabitants, had a case of an eruptive disease about four years ago. The diagnosis of this case is still a mooted question, but the authorities at that time, to be on the safe side, ordered all the inhabitants to be vaccinated. This fact alone has prevented the town from having a serious outbreak this autumn. For, when the diagnosis was made recently, the same discussion was revived along the old lines of four years before, the profession aligned itself on the two sides, while the county commissioners and local authorities sat still awaiting a decision. This had not been arrived at when I reached the city, and what was most earnestly desired was a definite opinion as to the nature of the disease. Fortunately no difficulty was experienced in giving this, for I found 12 cases of well-marked smallpox, 1 within 3 blocks of the city hall. The others were in a little village about 6 miles away, between which and the city there was open and constant communication. Four of the cases were seriously ill, the 1 in the city being among the number, but the disease in the remaining cases was of a mild type. There had been no deaths.

I could not learn how or where the first case occurred, nor how long the disease had been present. From all I could gather, certainly isolated cases have occurred from time to time since midsummer, but as to the origin it was absolutely impossible to learn anything definite.

I advised universal vaccination, isolation of the cases, holding the exposed for fifteen days observation, destruction of the old clothing and bedding, or else boiling it, disinfection of the premises with sulphur, and a thorough cleaning of the entire body surface and a strong bichloride bath before discharge from the pesthouse. I took the case in the city and went over the entire treatment of it and the premises step by step with the local board, on paper. I would have made this case an object lesson, and gone through the actual steps needed to isolate it and disinfect the house in which it occurred had the pesthouse been ready for occupation. But under the circumstances the delay would not have been warranted.

The physician who will attend the patients at the pesthouse was also instructed as to the garb he should wear and the precautions he should take, during and after his rounds, to prevent the disease being disseminated by him.

Respectfully,

W. C. Hobdy,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Arrival at Reedy Island Quarantine of vessels from West Indian ports.*

REEDY ISLAND QUARANTINE,  
*via Port Penn, Del., December 8, 1901.*

SIR: Through the medical officer in command of the national quarantine service on Delaware Bay and River, I have the honor to report the arrival at this station on the 4th instant of the British steamship

*Drummond*, from Martinique via Santiago de Cuba, with ore; no passengers; bill of health signed by Assistant Surgeon Von Ezdorf.

Respectfully,  
T. F. RICHARDSON,  
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., In Command.*

*Arrival at Baltimore of vessels from West Indian and South American ports.*

BALTIMORE, MD., December 14, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report the following arrivals at this port from the ports named for the week ended this day: December 9, Norwegian steamship *Sanna*, from Daiquiri, with ore. December 10, British steamship *Tolosa*, from Rio de Janeiro, with ore; British steamship *Gymeric*, from Junni, Peru, with nitrate of soda. December 11, British steamship *Drumelzier*, from Daiquiri, with ore. December 12, Norwegian steamship *Oscar II*, from Santiago de Cuba, with ore. December 14, British bark *Morven*, from Pernambuco, Brazil, with ballast.

Respectfully,  
T. E. CUNNINGHAM,  
*Collector.*

#### REPORTS FROM THE MEXICAN BORDER.

*Eagle Pass, Tex., December 9, 1901—Inspection service.*—I have the honor to report the following summary of transactions at this port for the week ended December 7, 1901: Number of passenger trains from Mexico inspected, 9; number of passengers on trains from Mexico inspected and passed, 1,027; number of passengers inspected and detained, none.

B. KINSELL,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*El Paso, Tex., December 7, 1901—Inspection service.*—I have the honor to submit herewith summary of transactions at this station for the week ended December 7, 1901: Inspection Mexican Central Railroad passengers, 103; inspection Rio Grande and Pacific Railroad passengers, 29; inspection of immigrants, 72; disinfection of blankets, bedding, clothing, etc., 65 pieces; disinfection of soiled linen imported for laundry work, 362 pieces; disinfection of Pullman soiled linen, 1,718 pieces; disinfection of carload of hides. Inspection of a certificate of death of body in hermetically sealed coffin, shipped from Mexico into the United States; vaccination of children of immigrants, 10.

E. ALEXANDER,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.*

*Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.*

CALIFORNIA—*Oakland.*—Month of November, 1901. Estimated population, 75,000. Total number of deaths, 75, including diphtheria, 1, and 9 from tuberculosis.

*Sacramento.*—Month of November, 1901. Estimated population, 30,000. Total number of deaths, 28, including 5 from tuberculosis.

IOWA—*Davenport.*—Month of November, 1901. Census population, 35,254. Total number of deaths, 31, including diphtheria, 1; enteric fever, 1, and 1 from tuberculosis.

LOUISIANA—*New Orleans.*—Month of November, 1901. Estimated